

10. (AMENDED) The nucleic acid of claim 9, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence encodes a protein associated with a disease.

21. (AMENDED) A process for inserting a nucleic acid of interest into the nucleus of a target cell, *in vitro*, said method comprising exposing an isolated or purified nucleic acid as depicted in Figure 5A, wherein at least one copy of the cPPT and CTS cis-acting regions of a retrovirus are present in the vector and the cPPT and CTS regions induce a three-stranded DNA structure, by reverse transcription, to a target cell under conditions that permit uptake of the nucleic acid of interest into the target cell.

25. (AMENDED) The process of claim 24, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid encodes a peptide, polypeptide, or protein.

29. (AMENDED) A process for expression a gene of interest *in vitro*, said process comprising

- a) exposing target cells to an isolated or purified nucleic acid as depicted in Figure 5A, wherein a gene of interest and at least one copy of the cPPT and CTS cis-acting regions of a retrovirus are present in the vector, and the cPPT and CTS regions induce a three-stranded DNA structure, by reverse transcription, under conditions that permit uptake of the nucleic acid into the target cell to create a recombinant cell, and
- b) culturing the recombinant cell under conditions that permit at least part of the nucleic acid to be transferred to the nucleus of the recombinant cell and the gene of interest to be expressed.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.